



A free program of the South Carolina Lt. Governor's Office on Aging

**Mission:**

To help **older adults, people with disabilities, and those who care for them** access useful information about long term support and needed services. Through the use of a comprehensive **web-based service directory** and **Regional Information & Referral Specialists**, individuals are able to find options for care throughout South Carolina to enable them to live as independently as possible.

*What is SC Access?*

Comprehensive Self-Help Web Site <a href="http://www.scaccesshelp.org">http://www.scaccesshelp.org</a>	Personalized Information, Referral, and Assistance (IR&A) Services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Resource Database:</b> Searchable database of services for seniors and people with disabilities listing nonprofit, government, for-profit, and unincorporated agencies<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <b>20,000+</b> visits per month from community members and professionals</li><li>○ <b>11,000+</b> active, continually-updated service listings in <b>18</b> categories, including:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Assistive Technology</li><li>▪ Basic Needs (e.g., food, clothing)</li><li>▪ Employment</li><li>▪ Support Services</li></ul></li></ul></li><li>• <b>E-Forms:</b> SC seniors can apply for Medicaid and the GAPS program on-line</li><li>• <b>Learn About:</b> Educational information about programs, services, agencies, and conditions</li><li>• <b>Community Calendar:</b> Meetings, training sessions, and community events of interest</li><li>• <b>Registry of Personal Care Workers</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>10 Regional IR&amp;A Specialists:</b> Located throughout South Carolina in regional Area Agencies on Aging (AAA)</li><li>• Available by phone, mail, e-mail, and in person. Visit our Web site or call the LGOA at (800) 868-9095 to locate the nearest Specialist.</li><li>• <b>Reliable support</b> in times of personal and family need. Examples of assistance given:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Emergency housing</li><li>○ Utility assistance</li><li>○ Registering for Medicare Part D</li><li>○ Recreational activities</li></ul></li><li>• <b>16,864</b> phone and in-person contacts in 2005</li><li>• <b>45+</b> people trained by the LGOA as Certified I&amp;R Specialists between Spring 2005 and Spring 2006. The LGOA is the only entity in SC providing the National Information and Referral Certification course/exam through the Alliance of Information and Referral Systems.</li></ul>

**Success Stories:**

- An IR&A Specialist helped an elderly homeless couple and their children pay for first month's rent and find clothing, food, and furniture after the husband became disabled and lost the family's sole source of income.
- A daughter from out-of-state searched the SC Access database and found assisted living options for her mother, who has dementia.
- A congressional staff person found resources for utility assistance for a constituent in Aiken County by searching the resource database.

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*SC Access* was created in 2001 with Federal funding from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). It is maintained through Federal grant funding and partnerships with agencies including the SC Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC).